

EI-30315

To whom it concerns,

I am excited with the prospect of getting the Uinta Basin Rail system here in eastern Utah! It is a project that, in my opinion, has been needed for a very long time! Most Basin residents feel the same about the need for this kind of connection to the rest of the state of Utah and its neighboring western states.

Our ability to grow economically with minimal or a lessening impact to our community and the surrounding areas, is certainly very limited without this proposed rail service.

I've heard many of the pros and cons concerning the development of this rail system. It is a common consensus, with many I know however, including myself, that a rail system would greatly improve our environment and alleviate many present environmental concerns we all have for our area.

Although there seems to be many voiced opinions in opposition to the project, of those, I believe few have either actually been here or spent much time here in our area! Others with a much-limited understanding, seem to oppose anything and everything, when it comes to a rural area such as ours, just because they can make it an environmental issue! They obviously judge things with a big city mentality, biased by their limited rural experiences. Certainly, they do not live and work in an area such as our, so they are not impacted or affected in the same way we are. But still they believe it's entirely in their right to control everything, in places they don't live and work.

The impact of trucking everything, to and from the basin, has an enormous impact on our environment, roads and infrastructure. The poorest in our communities are also required to pay high taxes on fuel, goods and services, since it is all trucked in. It has been said many times, "we are on the road to nowhere." The general population from the cities, generally choose not to come here, but almost everyone here in the rural areas of the basin, are required to travel long distances, to stay connected to family and friends living outside this area. Also, those not coming here often, are unaware of the enormous amount of semitruck and trailer road travel we have. During years where high oil field production is high, so is transport trucks. Wildlife is also severely affected by the increase in road usage.

Having the Uinta Basin Rail system, seems to be an amazing plan, with little Impact, that will be beneficial now and for a long time into the future.

Best regards,

Rik Lewis